



THE LINCOLN FORUM

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DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN TO KEYNOTE AT LINCOLN FORUM XI: "THE GENIUS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN"



Doris Kearns Goodwin accepts the 2006 Lincoln Prize.

—Photo: Don Pollard

Acclaimed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin—winner of the Lincoln Prize, the New York Historical Society Prize, the Baroness Award and a slew of other honors for her monumental 2005 book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*—will be the keynote speaker at the eleventh annual Lincoln Forum symposium, to be held November 16-18 in Gettysburg. The theme for Lincoln Forum XI, directly inspired by Ms. Goodwin's book, is "The Genius of Abraham Lincoln."

Promising to explore in depth the variety of Lincoln's abilities, the symposium will offer a number of different perspectives on Lincoln's genius: military, rhetorical, and political. Presentations by some of the country's greatest Lincoln scholars and Civil War historians will focus on the 16th President's roles as commander-in-chief, orator, and liberator.

"We are pleased and honored that so many of the speakers our members have consistently rated as their favorites will be returning in 2006," said Chief Justice Frank J. Williams, chairman of The Lincoln Forum. "They have more than earned their reputations—with our attendees, with literary critics, and with the reading public—and promise to provide, as always, a stimulating and unforgettable symposium for this, our 11th meeting. As we head toward the Lincoln bicentennial in 2009, the Forum is dedicated to the perennially unfinished work of bringing the finest scholars, the newest scholarship, and the most thought-provoking discussions, to its members. This will be a conference for the ages."

In one of the highlights of Lincoln Forum XI, Gettysburg's own Gabor Boritt, Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College and Chairman of the Lincoln Prize, will offer a major talk on his new book, *Gettysburg Gospel: Lincoln Speaks*, the first comprehensive book in more than 20 years on Lincoln's greatest speech.

On the always-engrossing subject of Lincoln and the military, Craig L. Symonds, chief historian of the U.S.S. Monitor Center and winner of the 2006 Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Award for the best book on naval history (*Decision at Sea*), will speak on "Abraham Lincoln, Admiral-in-Chief." As a counterpoint, John F. Marszalek, professor of history emeritus at Mississippi State University and author of a recent book on General Henry Halleck, will speak the following night on "The Military Genius of Abraham Lincoln." Then John Y. Simon, executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and professor of history at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, will address the related topic of "Abraham Lincoln and the Politics of Command."

Continued on page 12

Lincoln's Genius

As noted earlier, Lincoln's genius is our theme for Forum XI. This is most appropriate when Abraham Lincoln - like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson — is subject not only to the myth-making machinery of history but also to shifting trends in history-writing that new generations of authors embrace. They are also subject to successive waves of revisionism — based sometimes on newly unearthed facts, sometimes on changing ideological fashions and sometimes on a simple desire to offer contrarian views.

No American president has spawned a wider array of views than Abraham Lincoln — about whom more than 16,000 books, pamphlets and articles, by my estimate, have been written. He has been celebrated both as a noble visionary who liberated America's slaves and assailed as a die-hard hypocritical racist. He is either the folksy embodiment of the Common Man or a politician of cold, calculating reason. He has been psychoanalyzed as a womanizer, a homosexual, and a manic depressive. He has been accused of being passive and indecisive, canny and opportunistic, blasphemous and bigoted. In short, he has been deified, debunked, demonized, and deconstructed. Honest Abe has become the Abe of a thousand faces. "He's such a vast figure, so important, that every generation looks at him through its own prism," says Andrew Ferguson, a Senior Editor at the *Weekly Standard* now working on his forthcoming book, *Land of Lincoln*, which will look at why the president "continues to fascinate people."

Our 2006 keynote speaker's recent best seller extols Lincoln's leadership abilities, and there are feature films in the works. Earlier this year, the History Channel aired *Lincoln*, exploring Lincoln's moments of depression. And the Criterion

Collection has issued a two-disc set of John Ford's 1939 *Young Mr. Lincoln* which starred Henry Fonda. Harrison Ford will act as the leader of the chase for Lincoln's assassin in *Manhunt*, a movie based on the recent book by James L. Swanson, who was with us last November.

"Lincoln does seem to be speaking to the country," says Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, which Steven Spielberg is turning into a film starring Liam Neeson. This sterling narrative details Lincoln's ability to bring opponents together, including giving former presidential rivals jobs in his cabinet. Last April a huge Lincoln museum costing over \$100 million opened in Springfield, Illinois — his home town. The museum takes a new look at the past. Now that our country is fractured over the war on terror and the war in Iraq, it is important that we also look to the greatest leader in our country to help us into the future.

The current interest in the 16th president also arises from the upcoming bicentennial celebration of his birth, which will take place in 2009. The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission is already sponsoring and coordinating events (see www.lincoln200.gov). But Lincoln's influence reaches beyond the borders of the United States, says Richard Carwardine, author of *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power*, which has just been re-published in a handsome cloth edition after becoming the first paperback to win a Lincoln Prize. Carwardine, an Oxford professor says, "Lincoln is a bipartisan figure. He belongs to everyone. Lincoln is seen as something more than an American. He's seen as an international figure as well. In death, he transcended nationality." And in times of crisis, Carwardine says, citizens may want to ask, "Abraham Lincoln, where are you when your country needs you?"

This year, Good Friday, the day commemorating Christ's crucifixion, fell on April 14, just as it did in 1865. On that evening more than 140 years ago, in the balcony box of Ford's Theatre, John Wilkes Booth fired a .41-caliber derringer ball into the back of Abraham Lincoln's head. Nearly a century-and-a-half has passed since Good Friday 1865, and Lincoln has always remained his own man. He stands as a demonstration that a republican hero's sacrifice for the people represents the ideals of self-denial and self-giving.

So it is with great comfort that the Lincoln Forum family continues its intense scrutiny of this great and good man.



WWW.THELINCOLNFORUM.ORG

NEW BOOK FROM HOLZER, MEDFORD, & WILLIAMS OFFERS THREE VIEWS ON EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

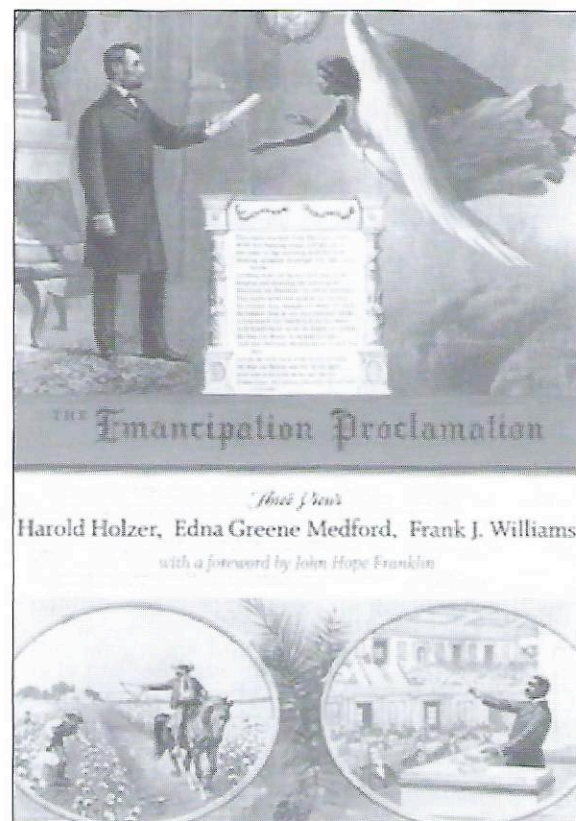
Abraham Lincoln's greatest act—the Emancipation Proclamation—is explored from social, political, and iconographical perspectives in a major new book by three Lincoln Forum founders: Harold Holzer, Edna Greene Medford, and Frank J. Williams.

The lavishly illustrated volume, *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*, was published in May 2006 by Louisiana State University Press. Predicted Booklist: “These...essays about the Emancipation Proclamation, the political and moral cynosure of the war, will be greeted with interest.”

The book is divided into three chapters—each exploring a distinct aspect of Lincoln's proclamation, and its impact on 19th-Century America. Edna Greene Medford writes on “Imagined Promises, Bitter Realities: African Americans and the Meaning of the Emancipation Proclamation.” Judge Williams explores: “‘Doing Less’ and ‘Doing More’: The President and the Proclamation—Legally, Militarily, and Politically.” And Holzer's chapter is entitled “Picturing Freedom: The Emancipation Proclamation in Art, Iconography, and Memory.”

Historian of the century John Hope Franklin contributed the foreword.

The book can be ordered on the Louisiana State University Press website: <http://s50780.sites40.storefront-hosting.com/detail.aspx?ID=119>



SPIELBERG'S "LINCOLN:" LIAM NEESON

Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg (*E.T.*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Munich*, *Saving Private Ryan*) has officially cast actor Liam Neeson to play Abraham Lincoln in his eagerly awaited, long-planned biopic based on Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

Neeson, who has played several historic characters during his acclaimed film career—including Michael Collins, Oscar Schindler, and Alfred Kinsey (in accents ranging from Irish to German to American)—made his “debut” in his newest starring role when he read the title role in *The Lincoln Family Album*, Harold Holzer's pictures-and-words show, performed with Holly Hunter (as Mary Lincoln) and Holzer as narrator, at the annual Lincoln's Birthday meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission at the Library of Congress in Washington.

Among the many Lincoln Forum officers and advisors attending the performance and post-event dinner were Frank J. Williams, Chuck Platt, Craig Symonds, and John Marszalek. Lincoln Forum perennial Henry Ballone took this photo during the performance.

This will not be the first time Spielberg has used Lincoln in the film. Movie buffs will remember that at the beginning of his epic *Saving Private Ryan*, General George Marshall illustrates his concern for Ryan's long-suffering mother—who has already lost sons in World War II—by reading aloud Lincoln's famous condolence letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a Massachusetts widow.

Nor is this the first Civil War film for Neeson, who was born in 1952 in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. He appeared previously in Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*.



Holly Hunter, Liam Neeson and Harold Holzer
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone

FORUM HELPING NEW GENERATIONS APPRECIATE MR. LINCOLN

By Don Pieper

Evidence of how compelling last fall's Lincoln Forum symposium was: Edna Greene Medford drove back to Washington alone.

She had driven to Gettysburg accompanied by seven Howard University graduate students. She had to leave early; her students, recipients of Forum scholarships, didn't want to miss a thing. They stayed for it all.

"They were having a wonderful time," Professor Medford says.

Not only a good time, but a learning experience and, perhaps, the ignition of a lifelong fascination with Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era.

The scholarships paid for meals and participation in all symposium events. The 2005 scholarships didn't cover lodging, but Edna Medford thought it was so important that the students be able to experience the symposium that she paid their hotel bills personally.

It was the third year Professor Medford, a member of the Forum's Board of Advisors and director of graduate studies in history at Howard, had brought students to the annual Gettysburg symposium. She teaches a Civil War class and is a leading scholar on the Emancipation. She awards the scholarships, she says, to students she knows will get the most out of the opportunity.

In addition to the scholarships for Howard students, the Forum conducts an essay contest for college students. Winners, writing on a designated Lincoln topic, receive cash prizes to help finance their education. This project is funded through the generosity of Chuck and Linda Platt and their family. Details on the essay contest can be found on The Lincoln Forum website.

The Forum leadership is firmly committed to introducing new generations to Lincoln and to helping them understand the turbulent mid-19th century.

"We would like to continue the scholarship program — not just for Howard students, but for other young people as well — and we'd like to pay for the hotel rooms," Annette Westerby, the Forum's administrator, says.

The Forum also will offer three teacher scholarships/assistantships this year. The Forum Fellows, who also will have some administrative responsibilities, will be chosen from applicants submitting short essays saying how they teach history and how attending a symposium would help.

The youth-focused plans will depend upon the generosity of Forum supporters. Professor Medford said the investment in encouraging young Lincoln scholars is wise and appropriate.



**Back Row: Felicia Bell, Ka'mal McClarin, Ronald Allen,
Peggy Lewis
Front Row: Talitha LeFlouria, Noelle Trent, Edna Medford,
Marcia Headley**

—Photo by David Walker

Last November, author and historian John Waugh donated extra copies of his book *Reelecting Lincoln: The Fight for the 1864 Presidency* for sale at the Forum table in the exhibitor room. The proceeds all went into the scholarship account, along with revenue from the sale of a blanket donated by the Gettysburg Gift Center, Forum pens, old copies of the *Lincoln Forum Bulletin* and volumes 1 and 2 of symposia proceedings.

Members Jo Dzombak, Virginia Williams, Linda Platt, Budge and Russ Weidman, David Walker and John Murray Platt helped staff the booth.

Waugh said the scholarship program exposes youth to "the drama of history" and offers an opportunity to "tap into the study of that greatest of American lives."

The symposia, Waugh says, "have without exception, even at my age, revitalized me, who already has some acquaintance with Lincoln, and caused me to appreciate his greatness even more, and to understand his time, perhaps the most dramatic time in our history, even more. Think how these Forum programs must inspire a younger mind."

He says a trip to a Forum symposium "could well be a life-changing, career-making event" for a scholarship recipient.

If you would like to help staff the Forum scholarship table at this year's symposium, email Annette. (anetwest@earthlink.net)

MARINERS' MUSEUM WEEKEND OFFERS PREVIEW OF THE USS MONITOR CENTER

The annual Mariners' Museum weekend and symposium in Newport News, Virginia—co-sponsored annually by the Lincoln Forum—attracted more than 200 attendees in March 2006.

Highlights included an array of historians' talks, and a sneak preview of the USS Monitor Center, the museum's new wing, currently under construction, which will house the recovered artifacts of the Union's first ironclad, most noteworthy among them its iconic gun turret.

The museum will also feature an outdoor replica of the original USS Monitor deck, built by workers at the nearby Northrup-Grumman shipyard, which is currently constructing the nuclear aircraft carrier *U. S. S. George H. W. Bush*.

The grand opening of the USS Monitor Center will take place the first weekend of March 2007—the 145th anniversary of the epic duel of the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia in nearby Hampton Roads. The symposium that year will include a major ribbon-cutting ceremony, as well as the usual complement of scholarly talks, re-enactment camps, period costume balls, and children's activities.

Official historian for the center is Craig L. Symonds.

CONFERENCE ON JAMES MADISON AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT THE INTERNATIONAL LINCOLN CENTER, OCTOBER 19-21, 2006

The Lincoln Forum will co-sponsor the 7th triennial presidential conference hosted by the International Lincoln Center at Louisiana State University in Shreveport on October 19-21, 2006. The topic of this year's multidisciplinary conference is James Madison and Abraham Lincoln.

The Conference will feature some 35 presentations (approximately half on Madison and half on Lincoln). Participating Lincoln scholars include Jean Baker, Joan Flinspach, Joseph Fornieri, Rodney Grunes, David Long,

Jacob Loshin, Archie McDonald, William Pederson, Donald Pickens, Ronald Rietveld, Jennifer Rose, Arthur Vanden Houten, and others. Highlights include a stage presentation of James Madison, and a publishers display featuring new books on Madison and Lincoln.

As the only presidential conference series in the South, the focus is on suggesting how Lincoln's leadership serves as the touchstone for chief executives and on how he was influenced by his other great predecessors. Previous conferences in the series included Lincoln in 1992, FDR in 1995, Washington in 1998, America at the 21st century in 2000, and Jefferson in 2003. Selected papers from each conference are available in the conference's book series.

For further information, please contact the International Lincoln Center, LSUS, One University Place, Shreveport LA 71115-2301, phone (318) 797-5138, fax 318-795-4203, or email William Pederson at: wpederso@lsus.edu.

The website is: www.lsus.edu/lincoln

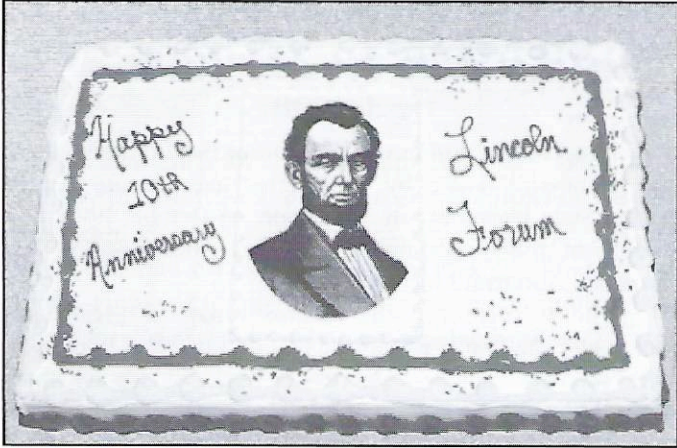
November 18, 2006 Remembrance Day Parade

The Annual Remembrance Day parade of Civil War living history and reenactment begins at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday November 18th and will pass in front of the Holiday Inn.

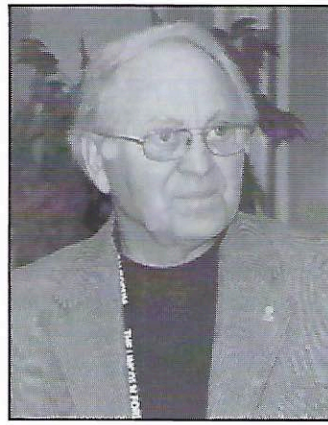
Spectators line the streets of Gettysburg to view Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Jim Getty) make his way to the Gettysburg National Cemetery. Thousands of re-enactors representing both the North and South march behind Lincoln down Baltimore Street to the cemetery. The parade is sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.



LINCOLN FORUM & MEMORIES



Let us eat cake!
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



Paul Beaver
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



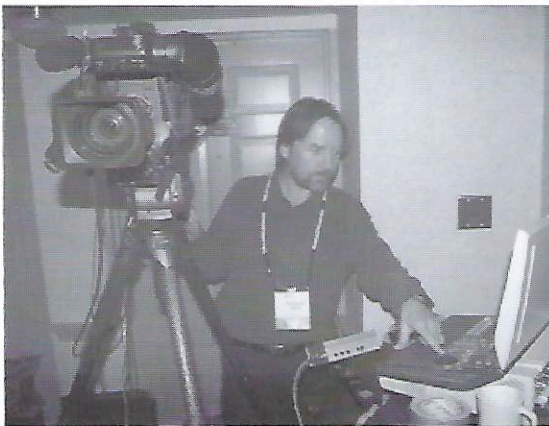
Joan Chaconas
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



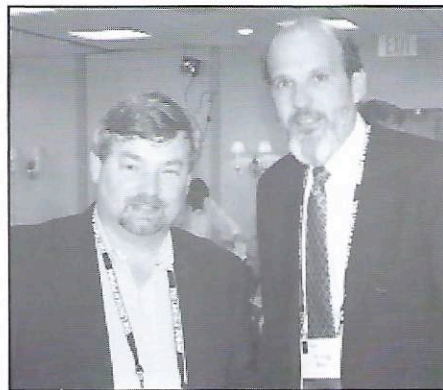
Elaine Henderson, Joseph Fornieri and Wendy Allen
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



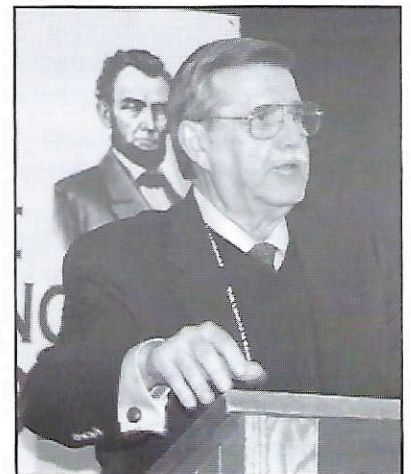
Thomas Goodrich, Richard Sloan, Debra Goodrich
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



C-SPAN'S photographer Richard Hall,
a one man band
—Photo by David Walker



Michael Kaufman and George Buss
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



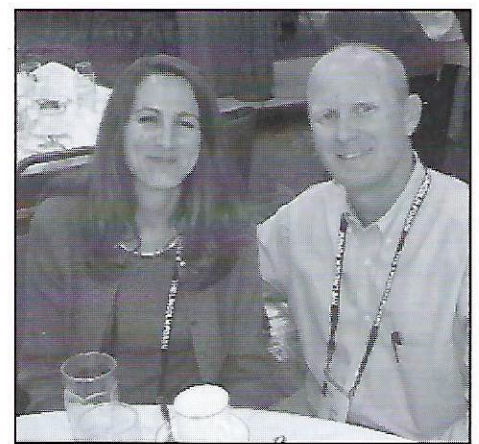
Edward Steers, Jr.
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



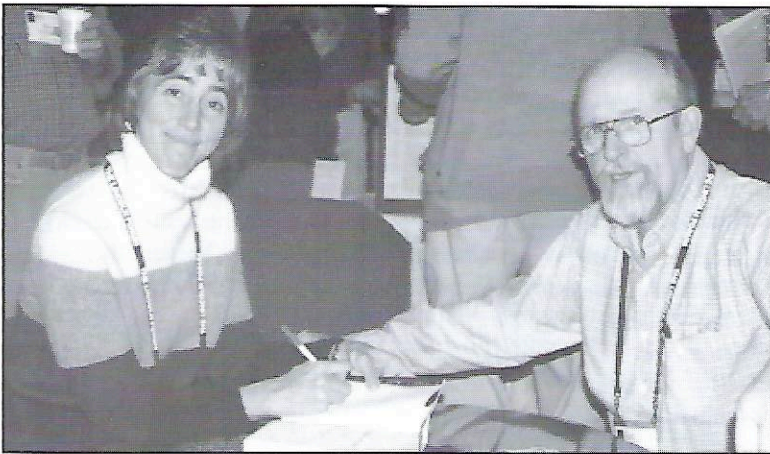
Naomi Lazarus and Michael Wolf
—Photo by David Walker



Jay Winik and Henry Ballone
—Photo by Virginia Williams



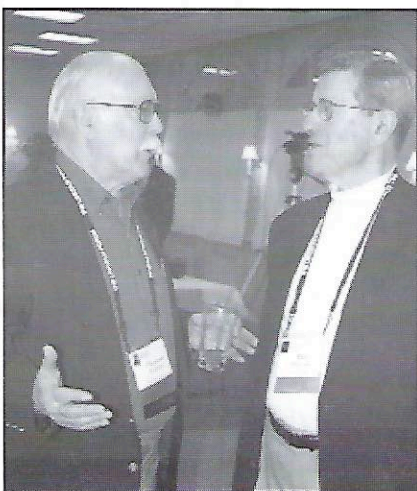
Susan and John Barr
—Photo by David Walker



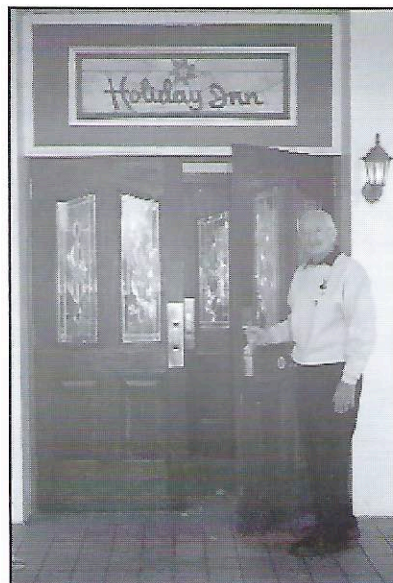
Elizabeth Leonard signing a book for Joe Card
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



Paul Barker, Jerry Desko, Jo Dzombak and Frank Williams relax in the lobby
—Photo by David Walker



Thomas Lowry & Richard Stazesky
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone



Dale Jirik as doorman
—Photo by David Walker



Budge Wiedman and Linda Wheeler present "The Peoples Award" to Virginia Williams.
—Photo by David Walker

LINCOLN FORUM PRESENTS 2005 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO SCULPTOR JOHN McCLAREY

Illinois sculptor John McClarey was named the winner of the 10th annual Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement of The Lincoln Forum. The acclaimed artist was honored at the closing banquet of the Forum's yearly symposium, which took place, by tradition, the evening before the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's most famous speech. More than 250 people attended the event at the Holiday Inn Gettysburg Battlefield at the close of a symposium devoted to the Lincoln assassination.

McClarey, who designed and for a decade has provided original copies of his canonical sculpture—*Freedom River*—to serve as the coveted Forum award keepsake, was cited as “the pre-eminent Lincoln sculptor of the age—one who has literally put Lincoln on a pedestal, in glorious works that have signaled a new golden age of public sculpture in the grand tradition of Daniel Chester French and Augustus St. Gaudens.”

Visibly moved, the sculptor, who was unaware of the tribute until its public announcement, was greeted by a standing ovation by symposium attendees.

Noted the Lincoln Forum's Chairman, Frank J. Williams: “For all of its first decade, the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement has celebrated superb historians, leading public officials, and cultural luminaries. It is 'altogether fitting and proper' that the first artist we recognize is the talented and generous sculptor who has created the organization's own precious icon, and has remained a faithful and modest member of our group even as his fame has spread nationwide. It is an honor to honor John McClarey.”

Judge Williams was honored as well—with another surprise copy of the *Freedom River* maquette—in a special tribute from the Forum's Executive Committee in acknowledgment of his decade-long leadership of the organization. The award, the Committee noted, was made “to salute him for ten years of command, with appreciation for what has been, and high hope that the best is yet to be.” The Executive Committee described its “first and future chairman” as the Forum's “man of the decade.”

In making the presentation to 2005 honoree John McClarey, Forum Vice Chairman Harold Holzer noted: “When Lincoln took his first look at the first sculpture ever made of him, he reportedly exclaimed: 'There is the animal himself!' We suspect that had John McClarey lived then, or Lincoln now, the President would have had much the same reaction to McClarey as he did in 1860 to the work of Leonard Wells Volk. John McClarey has captured the 'animal himself' and placed him in the context of provocative and enduring ideas.”

“The Lincoln Forum recognizes John McClarey for his prolific originality as he continues conquering the daunting challenge of interpreting Abraham Lincoln—and in so doing, dramatically changing the landscape of his beloved Illinois, and the wider perception of our national understanding of its greatest citizen. John McClarey is recasting the Lincoln image for a new millennium, contributing as much as any historian or biographer to defining and immortalizing him for this and succeeding generations of Americans.”



Frank J. Williams, John McClarey and Harold Holzer
—Photo by Henry F. Ballone

“There is probably no one in this room who needs a copy of *Freedom River* less than John McClarey, but there is no group of Lincoln admirers that needs to give it to him more,” Holzer concluded. “We know John McClarey owns the mold. But when the muses inspire him, they *broke* the mold.”

Acknowledging his “staggering list of recent sculptural commissions,” the Forum praised McClarey's many artistic achievements, including his statues “Vision for a Greater Illinois” in Decatur, “Lincoln Draws the Line” in Peoria, “Deputy Surveyor” in New Salem, “A House Divided” in Charleston, and “The Last Stop” in Taylorville—all life-sized, or larger-than-life bronzes erected in Illinois cities where Lincoln lived, worked, or spoke. The McClarey sculpture that serves as the official award, *Freedom River*, represents Lincoln, in the artist's own words, as “both a 'prime mover' and as one 'controlled by events,' with the river representing the movement of a great idea—freedom—its turbulence testing Lincoln's leadership.”

McClarey is currently working on his most ambitious and demanding commission yet, a heroic, thirteen-foot-high statue of Lincoln as President-elect, departing wind-swept Springfield for his 1861 inaugural journey to Washington. The statue will be erected in the public square outside the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

The annual Lincoln Forum achievement award is named for the 94-year-old dean of Lincoln scholars, Richard Nelson Current, who sent his greetings to the annual symposium from his Massachusetts home.

McClarey becomes the first visual artist to receive the Richard Nelson Current award. Previous winners have been: historian Gabor Boritt (1996), C-SPAN founder and CEO Brian Lamb (1997), scholar-of-the-century John Hope Franklin (1998), late U.S. Senator from Illinois Paul Simon (1999), historian and biographer David Herbert Donald (2000), scholar Garry Wills (2001), dean of Civil War historians James M. McPherson (2002), acclaimed actor Sam Waterston (2003), and the dean of documentary editors, John Y. Simon (2004).

The Forum's 11th annual symposium in November 2006—which will begin a three-year cycle of special Forum events leading up to the Lincoln Bicentennial year of 2009—will be devoted to the theme, “The Genius of Abraham Lincoln.”

ED STEERS NAMED FAVORITE SPEAKER AT 2005 LINCOLN FORUM X

In an extremely close contest among the lecturers at the 10th annual Lincoln Forum Symposium, attendees voted Edward Steers Jr. as the event's favorite speaker with a rating of 9.1. Steers—considered by many to be the leading scholar of the Lincoln assassination—appropriately enough emerged as the most acclaimed lecturer at a symposium devoted exclusively to the 16th President's murder.

The other speakers at the 2005 assassination meeting were closely bunched by the exacting participants who expressed their views in the annual evaluation sheets: James L. Swanson (8.8), Richard Sloan (8.5), Jay Winik (8.4), Michael Kaufman and Louise Taper (each 8.2), Thomas Lowry (8.0), Elizabeth Leonard (7.6), and Thomas Turner and Thomas Goodrich (7.5).

Forum X attendees were extremely enthusiastic about the panel “Who Killed Lincoln,” giving the group session an unprecedented 9.8 rating, the highest ever earned by a panel discussion at the Lincoln Forum.

Overall, the 2005 meeting earned a 9.0 ranking, with an 8.4 rating for the headquarters hotel, the Holiday Inn Gettysburg Battlefield, and an 8.0 approval for the food service at lunch and dinner meetings. *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin* earned an 8.5 approval, and the annual newcomers' battlefield tour and guide earned a rating of 8.1.

Doris Kearns Goodwin (scheduled to keynote at Lincoln Forum XI this November), Mario Cuomo, Senator Barak Obama, Ronald C. White, and Joshua Wolf Shenk (another Forum XI invitee) were among the scholars and political leaders named most often as preferred speakers for future gatherings. Guests at the 2005 symposium, who traveled an average of 317 miles to get to Gettysburg, continued to cite the rank the annual meeting as one of the most affordable history conferences in the country.

Among the overall comments volunteered by Forum X attendees: “Thank you to all of you who plan and execute the plans for this Lincoln Forum. It is indeed an inspiration to read, learn, and appreciate the history of our country.” “The scholarship is most gratifying, and in most instances, enhances by the presenters' delivery and stage presence. Forum results in an intellectually stimulating experience.” “You are doing a superb job. Keep up the good work and see you next year!” “I love the Lincoln Forum.” “Fantastic as usual.”

Other evaluations: “This was a great Forum. Perhaps the subject was more directed and intense than usual and resulted in riveting presentations. The 'Lincoln's New York Funeral' was so moving—brought tears to my eyes.” “As a non-historian, I am learning so much and enjoying the other members of the Forum.” “Thank you for an outstanding program.” “History lives at the Lincoln Forum.” “Professionalism at its best.” “Each year the Lincoln Forum re-charges my batteries and the friendships are heartwarming.”

Of course, there was constructive criticism, too. Attendees continue to be divided about the Holiday Inn—either praising it for its intimacy, or urging the Forum to move to larger headquarters so it can grow. Some appreciated the hot drinks in the lobby; others requested water in the conference room. Several attendees urged speakers to “interact” with their audiences more, and read their lectures less, and some were disappointment that speakers did not offer more focus on the individual Lincoln assassination conspirators.

And, yes, the Forum continues exploring new ways to expedite food lines, cure microphone feedback, and make sure everyone has the kind of experience memorably—and gratifyingly—expressed by one East Coast attendee: “I leave each year feeling re-charged with new information and knowledge on Lincoln and blessed with new and deeper friendships, too.” ■

This year, the evaluation survey asked Forum attendees to weigh in on their ideas for celebrating the upcoming Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009. Among the suggestions received:

- “Book the best speakers from previous conferences.”
- “Invite all of the Current Award winners to address the Forum.” “Bring back James McPherson and David Donald”
- “Produce a DVD for schools, enhance the web site, and make the banquet a really special event.”
- “Add an extra day, invite all past Current winners, add an optional tour to Washington for Lincoln-related sites.” “Three-day conference instead of two-day, with two panels and two tours.”
- “Design our own commemorative plate,” “offer a Lincoln Forum pin,” or “strike a medal.”
- “Offer travel to Kentucky and Illinois in a group trip in the summer,” or “hold the annual symposium in Springfield with tours of all the Lincoln sites.”
- “Start a fund to build a statue of Lincoln at the Gettysburg cemetery.” On the same theme: “Commission a painting illustrating the Gettysburg Address.”
- “Provide scholarship to minority students; create a traveling exhibition for urban centers that do not have adequate resources.”
- “Offer a complete look at what the U.S. was like in 1809.”
- “Do fundraising for Lincoln sites that need restoration.”



—Photo: Henry Ballone

WINSTON CHURCHILL IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN

Members of the Lincoln Forum are welcome to register and attend the annual conference of The Churchill Centre of Washington, D.C. This year's conference will be held in downtown Chicago and will emphasize similarities and connections between Winston S. Churchill and Abraham Lincoln, plus Churchill's Chicago connections. The Churchill Centre welcomes members of the Lincoln Forum to register at member rates.

About Abraham Lincoln and his relationships with his generals, Churchill wrote in his *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*: "It is sometimes necessary at the summit of authority to bear with the intrigues of disloyal colleagues, to remain calm when others panic, and to withstand misguided popular outcries."

The conference kicks off on the morning of Thursday, September 28, with two seminars which will contrast the leadership skills and style of Churchill and Lincoln. Born over half a century apart, Churchill and Lincoln shared qualities and contrasts that made them singular leaders at a time of peril to their nations. The morning sessions are devoted to a study of the two statesmen, and their individual approaches to a remarkably similar set of challenges.

Churchill, Lincoln and Their Generals

Speakers: Chief Justice Frank Williams, Rhode Island Supreme Court and founding chairman, The Lincoln Forum; Professor David Jablonsky, U.S. Army War College; author, Churchill, *The Great Game and Total War*.

Churchill and Lincoln: Oratory and Leadership.

Speakers: Harold Holzer, co-chair, Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Senior Vice President, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City; Steven F. Hayward of the American Enterprise Institute and author of the acclaimed book *Churchill and Leadership*.

A luncheon program on Thursday will feature former Illinois governor Jim Edgar, followed by Prof. John Ramsden from Queen Mary College, London, author, *Man of the Century: The Churchill Legend Since 1945*, who will speak on *The Making of the Churchill Legend*.

On Friday, September 29, an optional tour is offered to visit the western suburban estate of Chicago Tribune publisher Colonel Robert R. McCormick. A renowned Anglophobe, Col. McCormick struck up a friendship with Winston Churchill that survived any disagreements they had over British and American international policies during the Twenties and Thirties. Churchill visited the McCormick home in Chicago, and the Colonel invited him to his country estate. You will visit both Cantigny, McCormick's palatial estate, and the First Infantry Division (Big Red One) Museum which is located on the grounds of the estate. Lunch is included in the optional ticket price and the featured speaker is Gen. David L. Grange, President and CEO, Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, and former commander of the First Infantry Division (Big Red One).

A Gala Dinner (black tie, small medals) will be held Friday evening at the Drake Hotel. The speaker will be announced closer to the date.



This photo was taken at an American Thanksgiving Day celebration in London in 1944.

On Saturday, September 30, the program concludes with four sessions:

Churchill's Chicago Affinity

Speakers: Phil and Susan Larson, conference co-chairs and authors of "Encounters With Chicago" in *Finest Hour* 118.

The Collected Essays of Sir Winston Churchill

Churchill's essays will be examined with the audience by Professor James W. Muller, University of Alaska Anchorage, and chairman of The Churchill Centre's academic advisers.

The Sir Martin Gilbert Churchill Essay Competition: Presentations by the Winners

Winning students will present their conclusions by reading excerpts from and discussing their winning essays.

A Conversation with the Official Biographer

Moderator Richard Langworth, editor of *Finest Hour* and co-chairman of Trustees of The Churchill Centre, will engage the audience and Sir Martin Gilbert, Churchill's official biographer, in a free-ranging conversation on Sir Winston.

Reception and Dinner at The Union League Club

Sir Martin Gilbert will re-deliver Churchill's great 1932 speech, "The World Economic Crisis," delivered on the very premises seventy-four years earlier.

Lincoln Forum members are invited to attend the conference at Churchill Centre member rates. The member registration for the conference is \$495 per person. This fee covers all conference sessions, cash bar reception on Wednesday evening, lunch on Thursday, Gala Dinner on Friday, and the Union League Club dinner on Saturday. Tickets to Friday visit to Cantigny, which includes transportation from downtown and lunch at the estate, are \$95 per person.

A discounted group rate of \$199 single/double is available at The Drake Hotel for conference attendees. This is a dramatic discount over the ordinary price. Telephone The Drake Hotel at (800) 787-2200 and be sure to mention that you are attending the Churchill Conference. Rates are exclusive of local taxes (14.9%).

If Lincoln Forum members would like more information or to receive a complete registration packet, please contact The Churchill Centre, 888-WSC-1874 (in Washington, 202-223-5511), or email info@winstonchurchill.org.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Few American presidents have maintained as close a relationship with the common soldier as did Abraham Lincoln—who visited the troops of the Army of the Potomac many times between 1861 and 1865. (Lincoln's military leadership will be the subject of three lectures at Lincoln Forum XI.) In the photograph shown here, he sits uneasily with General George B. McClellan at army headquarters near Sharpsburg, Maryland, a few weeks after the Battle of Antietam. This was the first time a commander-in-chief had ever posed for the cameras so close to a battlefield of war. Later, once news of Lincoln's frequent trips to the front became well known, Northern printmakers invented more fanciful scenes of the President's on-site meetings with his generals. In one of the most famous, New York lithographers Jones & Clark portrayed Lincoln with (from left to right): Admiral David Dixon Porter, Admiral David G. Farragut, General William T. Sherman, General; George H. Thomas, General Ulysses S. Grant, and General Philip H. Sheridan. Countless images of this type helped convince anxious Northerners that their president—notwithstanding his inexperience in military affairs—was a competent, hands-on commander-in-chief.



Forum Chairman Among Nation's Top Judges

No one who has observed Frank J. Williams lead the Lincoln Forum over the past decade will be surprised that he has been named as one of the nation's best 500 judges—out of 30,000 sitting jurists evaluated by the review group Lawdragon (website www.lawdragon.com)—which describes itself as “an online searchable database where would-be consumers of legal services can get price and quality-of-service information” about lawyers and the law.

Inclusion in the “Lawdragon 500,” says the legal services information company, which is headed by award-winning journalists and lawyers, “is based on votes that are submitted to our Website or that Lawdragon reporters solicit from clients, judges, and attorneys across geographic and practice-area divisions. Lawdragon then conducts independent research on the information submitted and completes the list. Our editorial staff and an advisory board also review the votes to ensure the credibility of each entry and to ensure the breadth and depth of each practice area and geographic region has been maintained.”

In an article entitled “The Leading Judges in America,” the company added: “What makes a great judge may seem like the most abstract of law school questions, but...the Lawdragon 500 Leading Judges in America...have handled difficult or high-profile cases with aplomb.”

Adds the magazine: “So what makes a great judge? Brilliance? Definitely? That mysterious thing called judicial temperament? Absolutely. We also know judges have made the cut when attorneys say, ‘He’s decided for me, and he’s decided against me. Both times he was right.’”

Sounds like our chairman. One out of 30,000. Also one in a million.



—Photo: Henry Ballone

Lincoln Forum XI: continued from page 1

The authors of two recent and much-discussed Lincoln books will be on hand to discuss other aspects of Lincoln's accomplishments: Joshua Wolf Shenk on his volume *Lincoln's Melancholy*—exploring his ability to overcome and draw strength from his sadness—and Richard Striner, author of *Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to End Slavery*, on Lincoln's longtime determination to bring freedom to the nation's slaves.

The subject of Lincoln and slavery will also be explored in two additional and unique presentations—first, a three-way lecture on an important new book on the subject, and then a special student forum on Lincoln's reputation as a liberator. In the first, a specially extended program, Harold Holzer, Edna Greene Medford, and Frank J. Williams will offer reports on their just-issued book, *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views—Social, Legal, Iconographic*. Each has written a chapter in this new volume from Louisiana State University Press. The next day, graduate students from Howard University, where they study under Professor Medford, will join historians in attendance for a panel discussion and audience participation session on the provocative topic: “How Did African Americans View Abraham Lincoln?”


In another special and unusual presentation, Lincoln presenter and Forum Advisor George Buss of historic Freeport, Illinois, will join Forum vice chairman Harold Holzer for a “Press Conference with Mr. Lincoln” on the subject of the Gettysburg battle and speech. Buss and Holzer recently debuted their performance program at the Forum co-sponsored Mariners Museum family weekend, where they presented a press conference on the Monitor-Merrimac battle that was rated best presentation at the symposium.

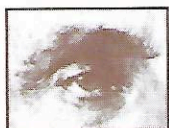
As always, historian guide Gary Kross will offer first-time visitors a tour of the Gettysburg battlefield. And for those who remain behind, Ralph Gary, author of *Following in Lincoln's Footsteps*, will provide the “Lincoln Lite” alternative program on the sites Abraham Lincoln visited or lived during his lifetime.

True to tradition, the Forum will offer a special lunch at the nearby, historic Dobbins House restaurant, as well as lunch and two dinners at the conference headquarters, the Gettysburg Battlefield Holiday Inn.

Finally, at the annual closing banquet, The Forum will again present the annual Richard Nelson Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement, and throughout the conference will offer book-signings, bookstores, and exhibitors in the Holiday Inn Terrace Room.

Attendees will also have access to the annual Remembrance Day Parade on Saturday, November 18, as well as the annual Gettysburg Address anniversary events in town on Sunday, November 19: the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania luncheon (advance registration required; speaker—Gabor Boritt); the annual dedication day ceremony with this year's guest speaker, Tom Brokaw; and the 45th annual Robert Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture, sponsored by Gettysburg College at the newly restored Majestic Theater, and this year featuring the noted historians James O. Horton and Lois Horton.

Space is limited: registrants may view the program in more detail on www.thelincolnforum.org, and register using the enclosed registration form. 



If you have news to share — on your Lincoln or Civil War organization, activities, or studies — send it for inclusion in the next Bulletin to:

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